

# HOUSING FIRST SOLANO COC SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 | 10:00 – 11:30 A.M.

## MEETING MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

Kari Rader called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

### 2. Roll Call

#### CoC Board Members:

Akon Walker, Solano County Office of Education  
Amanda Russell, Caminar  
Brandon Wirth, SHELTER, Inc.  
Elizabeth (Ely) Muniz-Palomera, LEC Co-Chair  
Joey Carrizales, Coordinated Entry Co-Chair, Lived Experience Member  
John Eckstrom, SHELTER, Inc.  
Joshua Arnold, alternate for Amani Sawires, VOA  
Kari Rader, Change and New Beginnings  
Meghan Freebeck, City of Benicia  
Reggie Sironen, Berkely Food and Housing Project  
Scott Mulvey, City Church

#### Additional Attendees:

Aloha Synder, Resource Connect Solano  
Casandra James  
Christine Wetzell, VOA  
DeAndre Richard, Resource Connect Solano  
Devra Edelman, Homebase  
Greg Papish, Resource Connect Solano  
Janel Fletcher, SHELTER Inc.  
Jim Randolph, SHELTER Inc.  
Julie Clemens, SHELTER Inc.  
Keetra Welling, CANB  
Maya Spark, Homebase  
Megan Richard, JPA Facilitator  
Omari Williams, Solano County Mental Health  
Pamela DeHaro, Resource Connect Solano  
Peter Macapugay, Solano County Office of Education  
Pixie Popplewell  
Reneé Parham, JPA & CoC Staff  
Tierra Williams, Resource Connect Solano

### 3. Additions or Deletions

The YAB Presentation was removed from the agenda and instead was given as an update.

#### 4. Approval of the Agenda

John Eckstrom made a motion to approve the agenda with the revision of the YAB presentation being an update. Akon Walker seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. There were no abstentions or objections. The motion was approved.

#### 5. Consent Calendar

##### 5.1 Approve HFS Board Minutes of Meeting on September 13, 2022

Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera made a motion to approve the minutes with the corrections. Reggie Sironen seconded the motion. Megan Freebeck abstained. There were no objections. The motion was approved.

#### 6. Old Business/Standing Agenda Items

##### 6.1 Virtual Meeting Continuation per AB361

Kari Rader stated that AB361 allows Brown Act covered bodies to hold meetings via teleconference as long as the current Executive Order regarding COVID, and social distancing requirements are in place. AB361 requires a vote to continue virtual meetings every 30 days. Reggie Sironen made a motion to approve the continuation of the meetings through AB361. John Eckstrom seconded the motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion was approved.

##### 6.2 Veteran Affairs Update

Lori Bowley and her alternate are unable to attend, so Kari Rader gave the Update. Kari Rader stated that the only update was about the GPD Notice of Funding Opportunity, with its two grant opportunities: 1) "Per Diem Only" (PDO) grants that fund transitional supportive housing beds or service centers; 2) Transition in Place" (TIP) grants that provide Veterans with apartment-style housing that allows Veterans to retain the unit as their permanent housing when they complete the GPD program. Kari Rader explained that the TIP grant applications were due by 4pm eastern time on January 30, 2023 and the PDO grant applications were due by 4 p.m. Eastern time on February 6, 2023.

##### 6.3 Committee Updates

- **CES Standing Committee:** DeAndre Richard gave an update that on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 there would be a Coordinated Entry Standing Committee Meeting to address updates to the Policies and Procedures relevant to the County with an explanation of Permanent Supportive Housing Plus, in addition to the Veterans Case Conferencing By Name Meeting on November 29, 2022, and on November 30 2022 a meeting for the upcoming Fair Haven Commons project that would be coming in early 2023.
- **Governance Standing Committee:** Maya Spark gave an update that they were working to schedule Governance Committee meetings hopefully in December, but it would depend on availability. John Eckstrom added that there were some edits to the Governance Documents that would be reviewed at the next meeting.

- **Lived Experience Committee Update:** Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera announced that there was a new member on the committee, and that there were nominations taking place for another Co-Chair due to Jessica Vasquez's change in availability to facilitate the Co-Chair role. Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera also stated that the Committee was planning an in person meeting in December to go over group agreements, finalize the logo, plan upcoming community meetings, and discuss having open meetings throughout the year.
- **Racial Equity Action Lab:** Cassandra James gave an update on the accomplishments of some of their goal outcomes, specifically regarding trainings and community engagement to address some of the myths about working with the BIPOC community. Cassandra James explained there was conversation around becoming a committee, and what that would look like moving forward.
- **Youth Advisory Board Core Planning:** Akon Walker gave an update that they are still in the early stages and learning about successful programs that have been started and how their examples could facilitate in the start of the Youth Advisory Board (YAB). Akon Walker stated that there was an upcoming meeting that week to discuss the possibility of funding opportunities that could be presented to the Board and the start of focus groups to help in gathering youth to be part of the Board.

## 7. New Business

### 7.1 Letter of Support for Lutheran Social Services Stop Plus PSH

Maya Spark presented a letter of support on behalf of Lutheran Social Services (LSS) for their Stop Plus Project and explained that they had taken over the project that had been under previous funding with narrow qualifications that lessened the chances of certain subpopulations from receiving help. Maya Spark went on to explain that LSS needed permission from HUD to be approved for a broader subpopulation, and part of the requirements to accomplish that was to have a letter of support from the CoC.

John Eckstrom made a motion to approve the signing of the support letter; Elizabeth Muniz-Palomera seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken and there were no objections or abstentions. The motion was approved.

### 7.2 HHAP4 Application Update

Devra presented the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Round 4 Funding update which included the funding requirements, priorities, landscape analysis, eligible uses, outcome goals and strategies. The slides were provided in the [public folder](#). Attendees offered feedback on the Outcome Goals via public comment and a Jam Board where they could type in and create sticky notes with their feedback.

Brandon Wirth commented on the positive progress of the CoC from having 9 agencies in HMIS to 31 agencies and the work being done to achieve accuracy. Brandon also commented that he supported the permanent supportive housing option for this round of funds.

Akon Walker commented on the 10% set aside for Youth and wanted to lift the idea of going beyond the 10% minimum requirement to address the youth experiencing housing

instability, and how to integrate an equity lens into the HHAP4 Application, in addition to working on more prevention in the future.

DeAndre Walker discussed the need for more prevention and diversion for folks who need rental assistance or help with application fees and assistance along these lines so they can prevent homelessness. DeAndre Walker also mentioned the need for outreach in the community, more shelter and permanent supportive housing as well as a move on point for those in permanent supportive housing. DeAndre Walker also addressed the need for youth assistance, specific youth case managers and hotel vouchers to help them get off the street and navigate their situations along with upgrading to HMIS Clarity to increase the funding for the community.

Devra Edelman encouraged additional comments on the Jam Board to hear from those who didn't have a chance to vocalize their thoughts.

### **7.3 2023 PIT Count**

Kari Rader discussed the need for more realistic numbers for the upcoming PIT Count and suggested doing another count later in the year.

DeAndre Richard asked about the potential for a PIT Count Subcommittee to help prepare volunteers to address those being counted.

Joey Carrizales stated his agreement with DeAndre Richard and that he was told by homeless people that the count was not accurate because volunteers were afraid to talk to them long enough to get the information requested. Joey Carrizales also expressed the need for more trust so that the process goes smoother next time.

## **8. Staff Updates**

### **8.1 Staff Communications**

Megan Richards introduced herself as a Management Analyst for Solano County and the in-kind support and contact for the JPA and Facilitator between the Technical Advisory Committee and new Board. Kari Rader stated that everyone should invite Megan to their facilities and connect with her as a Liaison to the JPA and to educate her as much as possible.

### **8.2 Funding Opportunities**

Kari shared that in addition to the GPD and TIP NOFO mentioned earlier in the meeting, the Workforce Development Board of Solano County has an RFP out for the American Rescue Plan Act Community Workforce Grant, that is due November 23, 2022, and that the information was sent out over the listserv and will be posted on the website.

## **9. Presentation**

### **9.1 YAB Presentation**

Removed from the Agenda during the Agenda Approval

## **10. Comments from Board Members**

### **10.1 Public Comments**

Scott Mulvey discussed the Turkey Dinner that City Church was doing at the City of Fairfield's City Hall.

Akon Walker discussed that November is runaway and homeless youth prevention month, and in addition to different activities that will be conducted to uplift and raise awareness throughout the month, on November 10<sup>th</sup> people will be wearing dark green to show support and awareness. Akon Walker also stated that in Solano County the 2021-2022 count of youth in unstable housing was over 1,100, based on the definition of the McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

Greg Papish asked for an update on the HHAP3 Funding for Solano County. Kari Rader explained that the applications had been pulled for the entire state but that the JPA Chair was going to be in a meeting with the Governor to address the concerns.

Kari Rader announced the upcoming JPA Meeting on November 17, 2022.

DeAndre Richard asked about the CoC HMIS Subcommittee meetings. Devra Edelman explained that the meetings would be starting up again since Pathways was now the acting HMIS Administrator.

## **10.2 Adjourn**

Kari Rader adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.